

**Virginia Council on Women
Women's Healthcare Initiative Subcommittee**

MINUTES

April 18, 2018

10-15 minutes post-adjournment of full Virginia Council on Women meeting (approx. 2:00pm-3:00pm)

Patrick Henry Building, 1111 E. Broad Street, 4th Floor
Secretary of the Commonwealth's Conference Room, Richmond, Virginia 23219

Subcommittee Members Present: Katy Sawyer (Co-Chair), Ikeita Cantú Hinojosa (Co-Chair), Miriam Bender, Ashley Marshall, Katie Tyson

Subcommittee Members Absent: Margie DelCastillo, Erin Evans-Bedois, Michelle Strucke

Staff Present: Traci DeShazor, Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth

Call to Order: Katy Sawyer called the meeting to order at 1:58pm. She welcomed everyone in attendance.

Agenda and Minutes: Katy Sawyer reviewed the agenda distributed in advance of the meeting and requested approval of the minutes from February 20, 2018. Miriam Bender proposed that the word "felt" be deleted ("The group felt stressed the importance of diversity in the audience..."). Ashley Marshall made a motion to approve as amended, Miriam seconded, and all present approved the motion.

New Business – Group Discussion:

April 12th Debrief of Governor's Proclamation Signing, First Lady's Yoga Session, and MSiC Learning Labs: Katy Sawyer stated that Ikeita Cantú Hinojosa provided an overview of the April 12th health and wellness events during the full Virginia Council on Women meeting, so the subcommittee discussion would debrief the day. The group agreed that it was a fun and effective day and that the debrief discussion served as a deep dive into lessons learned so that improvements can be made in the future. The group thanked Traci DeShazor for making the day a success, and Traci shared her favorite leadership quote by Warren Bennis: "Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality." Traci said that the Governor and First Lady were generous with their time and happy with the day, and that the only challenges concerned logistics. Traci stated that a law enforcement incident was developing on April 12th which required a great deal of coordination with the Governor's and First Lady's staff as well as Katy and Ikeita as the subcommittee co-chairs, but the matter was resolved behind the scenes and did not disturb guests. Also, Richmond Public School students were unable to participate since their school district called a half day on April 12th. The group discussed the challenges around securing an accommodating free venue that was available on the proposed date, the appropriate size, had indoor and outdoor space, could transport students, offered programming, and could ensure that a diverse group of girls in the requested age range participated in the day's activities. The group detailed the partnership with the Math Science Innovation Center (MSiC) and agreed upon the importance of clear communication, advance planning, and written follow up. Miriam brought up that many no-cost items can be achieved as community contributions with advance planning, and she underscored the importance of busy executive leadership designating staff points of contact. Traci thanked Miriam and student intern Corey Brooks for securing stakeholder representation via outreach and research. Katy expressed that our goal was to have a public feel for the Governor's proclamation signing and then something more intimate for the First Lady, which we achieved. The group agreed that the event length was appropriate, the instructors were interactive, and the science instructor was very dynamic. Ashley Marshall stated that MSiC seemed like a great venue but that it is also worth exploring other options for next year that may be a better fit with advance planning. Miriam agreed that in addition to venue, we also need to consider the type of event we want next year with early planning. We had a compressed window this year since we could not start planning until after January.

The group discussed that Governor Northam is “the children’s Governor” and speaks openly about the importance of healthcare and his work as a pediatric neurologist. During the proclamation signing, Governor Northam talked about equal pay, Medicaid expansion, STEM, STEAM H (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics, and Health), Women & Girls Wellness Month, and girls running for office. Ikeita said that Governor Northam provided a blueprint for health, prevention, and wellness broader than our current subcommittee charge. Katie Tyson said that it was difficult to identify participants. The group discussed ways to add more value to stakeholders’ participation, including more formal tours, name badges, a networking reception, and a photo op. Ikeita said that representation matters and that participants provided feedback that it was very special to see diversity reflected in all areas of the day. Ashley shared that she is becoming the Executive Director of the Central Virginia YWCA in Lynchburg and she is happy to help tour prospective venues.

Future Events: Katie Tyson proposed a healthcare focused mini session or kids’ forum “mini med school” for children to help impact their community and engage their parents and the people around them. The forum would be an opportunity for kids to discuss overall wellness, nutrition, healthcare, and the environment and discuss “what health means to me.” Miriam Bender said that the Governor mentioned the arts, and health and wellness initiatives can engage different skills and interests beyond healthcare and STEM, such as creativity and leadership. Ashley Marshall talked about the social determinants of health as well as the fact that many children do not see the medical or healthcare fields as attainable professions, so it would be good to expose them to such possibilities early and provide such forums in different areas through a “the doctor is in” theme. The group discussed the pros and cons of partnering with public schools versus private schools, Policy Office and Secretary of Education coordination, pre-K through high school students, geographic diversity, and the merits of community partnership versus a competitive application process. Traci DeShazor underscored that advocacy is a fine line and likely not approved by the Policy Office, but it may be possible to ask children how they feel about their health and how they are taking action around their health and wellness. Miriam stated that “kids talk” could be partially framed as the importance of us hearing from kids to help inform our recommendations to the governor. The group agreed that since Women and Girls’ Wellness Month is each April, a future additional program idea would need to occur in the summer of 2019. Traci offered to take the “mini med school with kids talk” proposal to the First Lady’s staff and report back to the subcommittee.

Post-April 12th Event Information: Traci DeShazor stated that photos from the Governor’s proclamation signing, the First Lady’s yoga session, and the MSiC learning labs are located on the Commonwealth’s public Flickr page. Ikeita Cantú Hinojosa informed the group that thank you messages would be sent to major partners as well as the Governor and First Lady.

Subcommittee Charge: Ikeita Cantú Hinojosa stated that the subcommittee is still acting under former Governor McAuliffe’s 2014 charge to “Look at the issue of women’s healthcare in VA and develop recommendations on what our state government can do to improve access to quality healthcare” and recommended that the subcommittee ask Governor Northam if he wants to provide a new charge with an expanded women and girls health and wellness focus reflective of his policy agenda. Traci DeShazor said that she will ask his policy office.

Next Subcommittee Meeting. Subcommittee members agreed to meet on August 9, 2018, at around 11:00am, approximately 1.5 hours before the full Virginia Council on Women meeting. Meeting location TBD.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:11pm on a motion by Miriam Bender, seconded by Katie Tyson, and adopted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ikeita Cantú Hinojosa, Co-Chair